

**MEETING OF THE NUECES RIVER AND CORPUS CHRISTI BAY AND BAFFIN BAY  
BASIN AND BAY AREA STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE (NUECES BBASC)  
JANUARY 25, 2012**

**NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS**

**MINUTES**

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**Call to order Roll Call**

Chairman Con Mims called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was reached.

**Public comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Approve Minutes**

The minutes from the October 19, 2011 meeting were approved by consensus.

**Elect Officers for 2012**

Member Ray Allen moved to re-elect Con Mims as BBASC Chair and James Dodson as BBASC Vice-Chair. Member Carola Serrato seconded and the members unanimously approved the motion.

**Comments from SAC liaison**

SAC liaison Paul Montagna provided a brief update on SAC activities. The SAC is currently evaluating work plans for adaptive management developed for other basins. He urged members to consider these SAC evaluations when it comes time for development of the work plan by this BBASC.

**Report on reservoir conditions**

Member Ray Allen distributed a handout explaining reservoir storage and capacity. Members discussed reservoir status with respect to the 2011 drought.

**Discussion and appropriate action on report from Nueces BBASC Work Group**

Vice-chair James Dodson provided a report of the BBASC work group evaluating the Nueces BBEST report. The work group is performing a detailed review of the BBEST recommendations and provided a summary document outlining their findings for members to review. The group had also considered and have provided information regarding a public information program, as suggested during the October 19, 2011 BBASC meeting, to disseminate information and inform the public regarding the BBASC environmental flow recommendations and those adopted by the TCEQ. This work group will continue to meet and will present their recommendations for approval by the full BBASC membership.

**Discussion and appropriate action on potential technical and facilitation assistance**

Per previous discussion, the BBASC agreed by consensus to not procure facilitation services to support the BBASC. After further discussion the BBASC agreed to delegate to the BBASC work group the authority to develop contracts and scopes of work for additional technical support to follow up on BBEST recommendations. The full BBASC will review any scope or contract for approval prior to execution.

## **Discussion and appropriate action on the Nueces BBEST environmental flows recommendations report**

- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department response to Nueces BBEST report**

Dr. Jim Tolan, TPWD, distributed a memo containing TPWD staff perspectives on the Nueces BBEST report. Dr. Tolan provided a brief overview of TPWD's comments and concerns, noting TPWD's concurrence with the BBEST's determination of sound ecological environment, and the unsound environment determination of Nueces Bay.

- **Nueces BBEST clarification of its recommendations pursuant to Nueces BBASC questions and SAC comments**

BBEST Chair Sam Vaughn, HDR, provided an overview of the BBEST environmental flow recommendations. He identified and addressed comments made by the SAC, TPWD, and initial comments by the BBASC members. He noted that the BBEST will respond to BBASC direction and inquiries as best they can, but will not respond directly to TPWD or SAC comments unless requested to do so by the BBASC members. All inquiries to the BBEST can be sent through Cory Horan, TCEQ. In discussing a water right for the City of Corpus Christi off channel reservoir, Mr. Vaughn clarified that environmental flow standards would only be applied to new appropriations, and thus the City's water right would not be subject to TCEQ adopted environmental flow standards. The members discussed how flow standards would be implemented, whether or not a water right holder could divert or pass water, and how those determinations are made. The members also discussed a proposal to evaluate the BBEST recommendations as applied to the BBEST selected sites the Nueces River at Laguna, TX, the Nueces River at Cotulla, TX, and the Nueces River at Three Rivers, TX. Each of these sites represents a distinct ecoregion within the basin.

## **Discussion and appropriate action on future activities and responsibilities of the Nueces BBASC, including meeting schedules, funding, and Nueces BBEST support**

Cory Shockley, HDR, provided an overview of the 2001 TCEQ Agreed Order vs. the BBEST recommendations, noting similarities and differences. He discussed efforts to update the City of Corpus Christi water supply model with the ability to operate the system in accordance with the BBEST recommendations applied, and how often those recommendations are met. Once this project is complete the results will be provided to the BBASC for consideration of how the BBEST recommendations could, if applicable, affect existing water supplies. Member Gus Gonzalez also noted that the City of Corpus Christi is also funding an effort to evaluate the BBEST determination that Nueces Bay represents an unsound ecological environment. These results will also be presented to the BBASC for consideration.

## **Discussion and appropriate action on meeting schedule and agenda items for next meeting**

Future BBASC meetings will occur on a monthly basis, to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## **Public comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

## **Adjourn**